

Environmental Science Day 2

April 2nd, 2012

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Swamp 1



We are at our swamp, in the forest , on day two of our project, April 2nd, 2012. It's very cold, and there is not much snow.

Before the swamp, into the forest, there is a steep slope, almost enough to trip on. There is a lot of gravel surrounding the swamp, possibly created by water from the swamp eroding at the site.

There is a ring of dead leaves of maple and oak surrounding the swamp. There are dead branches

and trees in the swamp, and logs , some of the logs are covered in moss, the moss also covers some of the rocks , adding more soil to the swamp. The swamp itself is full of algae. There is also lots of dead leaves. There are bunches of grass growing on the site, and small, red maple flowers on the ground , from the trees. There are " islands" of soil, possibly dead, decomposing trees mixed with dead leaves, and added to by moss and lichens eroding at rocks. There is grass growing in these islands.. Since the weather is getting warmer, the trees have begun the process of growing leaves, so they have sucked water out of the swamp and have therefore reduced the water level. This normally does not happen due to there being snow that melts, but there was no snow this year and therefore no snowmelt. The main source of water at our site is the swamp itself, and it has eroded at the rocks and soil at the edge of the swamp. There is also erosion from wind and footsteps at the edges of the swamp, since it is very slow, it has not changed much. It is very cold, not very humid or sunny, there is a definite wind and a layer of clouds blocking the sun. The soil is thick, rough and grainy with fairly large particles, and it is a grayish-brown color. The particle size is fairly large, and there is a fair amount of moisture, enough so you can feel some moisture in your hand. The soil is full of small pebbles. The site smells like sulfur, it's a rather unpleasant smell.

Birds can be heard chirping throughout the forest, and they are the only indicators of animal life. It is far too cold for insect life, none of them are present. The dominant types of plant would be some grasses and algae growing in the swamp, and moss on the rocks, but there are mostly deciduous tree such as maple and oak, although its hard to tell since there are no leaves on the trees, but the ones littering the ground are oak. There are also pine needles littering the ground.

There is an abundance of these trees around the swamp, and the swamp itself had quite a frequent amount of smaller trees, and it has a lot of algae. Mosses are growing on rocks and logs, and thick, chunky algae is present throughout the swamp, along with trees, so there is not any plants particular to a certain area. The trees are not really affecting the sunlight reaching the ground, since they are not full with leaves yet, but they are to some extent. There are not any decomposers that are visible, and there are no effects of the decomposers visible.

Humans impact the area by stepping on the path and by making a path and bridge through the forest and swamp.

